



EDUARDO V. GENAO
DIRECTOR



STEVEN J. ADAMOWSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

Testimony of: Eduardo V. Genao
In support of: BILL NUMBER 6432

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Honorable Chairmen, Members of the Committee

My name is Eduardo V. Genao, and I'm submitting written testimony today in support of BILL NUMBER 6432 -- AN ACT CONCERNING CLOSING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP.

I strongly support the idea of developing a model curriculum in reading and mathematics for grades prekindergarten to grade four. This is crucial in improving the performance of students. Establishment of a clearly defined curriculum would make the WHAT TO TEACH non-negotiable. This model curriculum would guarantee that the students in the same grade, but in different rooms, with different teachers would be taught the same concepts and ideas. As Robert Marzano puts it, a "guaranteed and viable curriculum" is essential in the improvement of instruction and learning.

I also support the fact that this bill would permit local boards of education to increase the number of hours and sessions in low achieving schools. Providing students with more time on task is essential to helping them understand and show evidence of learning and to be able to close the achievement gap with students in other non-low performing schools.

I fully endorse the idea of establishing an educator reciprocity program to permit certified teachers in other states with similar certification requirements to teach here in Connecticut without major obstacles. After having been a very successful teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent in NYC and with Permanent Certification in New York State, I had to take Praxis examination in reading and mathematics, among other requirements. We want to make sure that we attract talented educators and administrators from neighboring states who have proven through their professional track record that they know how to improve student learning and improve school and district outcomes by making it as easy as possible to be certified in Connecticut.

Finally, I also fully endorse giving students in the priority school districts the ability to attend PreK and Kindergarten as they most likely lack the vocabulary and experiences that other children have when they enter first grade. The only recommendation here is that the State needs to provide the funding necessary to make this part of Bill 6432 a reality in priority districts whose students in all grades have needs that district funding must also support.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you today on this important issue and I ask that you support BILL NO. 6432 -- AN ACT CONCERNING CLOSING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP.